

REMARKS

Claims are 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-12, and 14-23 pending in the application. Claims 1, 12, 19, and 22-23 are independent. Claims 1, and 12 have been amended. Claims 4, 8, 10, and 13 have been canceled. Claims 22 and 23 have been added.

Objection to the Drawings

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figures 7(a), 7(b), 8(a), 8(b), 9(a), 9(b), and 9(c) in accordance with the draftsperson's remarks. In papers filed herewith Applicants have submitted a Request for Approval of Corrected Drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.121 for Figures 7(a), 7(b), 8(a), 8(b), 9(a), 9(b) and 9(c). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the objection to Figures 7(a), 7(b), 8(a), 8(b), 9(a), 9(b) and 9(c).

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 8, and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4. Claim 4 has been canceled. The subject matter of claim 8 has been added to claim 1 and presented as new claim 22. Claim 8 has been canceled. The subject matter of claim 10 has been added to claim 1 and presented as new claim 23. Claim 10 has been canceled. Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9, and 11 properly depend from amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11, and 22-23 to allowance.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 13. Claim 13 has been canceled. Claims 14-18 properly depend from amended claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass claims 12 and 14-18 to allowance.

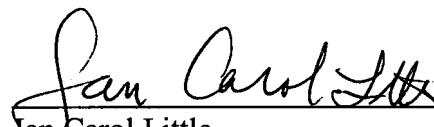
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all grounds for objection and rejection have been properly corrected, accommodated, or rendered moot, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: June 12, 2003


Jan Carol Little
Reg. No.: 41,181
(206) 292-8600

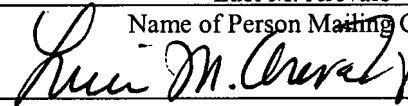
FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on June 12, 2003
Date of Deposit

Luci M. Arevalo

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence


Signature

June 12, 2003
Date